

**Subject:** Re: FW: 8618 Sepulveda Blvd.

**From:** Donald Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>

**Date:** 07/27/2016 10:53 PM

**To:** Kita Curry <KCurry@didihirsch.org>

**CC:** miki@hbdrollinger.com, John Ruhlen <jruhlen916@aol.com>, Jack Davis <jsdla@aol.com>, Chris Locke <Chris@hfhlt.com>, Heather Lemmon <iselpdr@gmail.com>

**BCC:** Donald R Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>

I see neither of us sleeps!

I have thought about you 3 times today but not initiated contact. My bad.

I'll get you a letter by Friday. I think you can rely on our support. I may want to ask you to appear at our next BID Board meeting (3rd Thur of August @ 10 am) to present your project. I think I can pole the Board to provide a letter of support before that. Does this work for you?

On Jul 27, 2016 10:39 PM, "Kita Curry" <[KCurry@didihirsch.org](mailto:KCurry@didihirsch.org)> wrote:

Hi Donald,

As requested by Mike Bonin's office, I sent a template for a support letter to them Monday. On [Tuesday](#), Ezra Gale, the Sr. Planner in his office, called and said didn't fall under "project" requirements, because we aren't constructing a new building or radically changing outside of existing one. Therefore, he said the CDO requirements don't apply. Our architect and I are meeting with David Solaiman Tehrani, City Planning Department, who oversees CDO Friday morning to clarify zoning just in case.

Next Monday our Executive Committee will decide whether to recommend that the Board finalize the purchase. If they recommend moving forward, the entire Board will vote on Wednesday! So it's really important I can honestly allay any concerns they have. **[If you could send me an email or letter authorized by your Board indicating support for our locating in Westchester's Business Improvement District, it would help us make this momentous decision.](#)** We will be putting millions of dollars into renovating it and want to be sure we will be welcome. You can count on us improving the appearance and value of the east side of Sepulveda!

Here's the information I sent to Councilmember explaining how our use would not only be a community resource but also bring shoppers and diners. Below that is a broader description of all we would do. Excuse any bloopers; it's late!

[Pedestrian Traffic at Site](#)

[Young and old, suicide takes more lives than automobile accidents in the U.S. Among](#)

15-24 year-olds, it is the second leading cause of death. Also, a million American survive attempts each year, which increase the risk of eventual death.

Each week about 300 people will pass through the Suicide Prevention Center, which was the first in the nation. Over the course of the year, the total will be well over 1,200 unique visitors. Most will be volunteers on the Center's 24/7 suicide crisis line and national Disaster Distress Helpline crisis line; or individuals attending support groups who have lost a loved one to suicide or have themselves survived a suicide attempt; or individuals receiving specialized training in suicide prevention (e.g., volunteers from Antioch, Pepperdine and Loyola, religious leaders, educators, law enforcement, etc.).

Because volunteers and group members are typically on site for two to four hours, Westchester will also become a destination to take care of errands and dine as well. And, staff will welcome being in a location where they can walk to lunch midday or to dinner before an evening shift. Moreover, those who come to the Suicide Prevention Center will discover that Westchester is a vibrant community with much to offer and will be likely to return after their groups or training end.

Although not a typical business, Didi Hirsch's Suicide Prevention Center will bring a steady stream of visitors, as well as making a civic contribution through its free and sliding scale community resources. In addition, the six properties it currently owns in Los Angeles County represent the quality and aesthetics expected in the Westchester Business Improvement District.

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### Primary Services

1. Training for: business people, educators, mental health professionals, law enforcement, etc. to recognize and respond to warning signs of suicide; staff and volunteers who work on suicide crisis line and national Disaster Distress Helpline; for staff and volunteers who respond to the scene of suicides, lead support groups; etc.
2. Suicide prevention and support: 24/7 suicide crisis line and 24/7 national Disaster Distress Helpline; support groups – sliding scale – for individuals who have survived suicide attempts and for friends and family grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide to.
3. Research: a team on site to help develop and evaluate suicide prevention programs and disseminate findings.
4. Individual, family, and group counseling/therapy with mental health professionals for those affected by suicide who need longer and more tailored support. Therapy for youth 18 and younger where most common diagnoses are anxiety, depression, and ADHD. Approximately 8 hours a week, a psychiatrist will be on site to assess for and, if necessary, prescribe medication. No medications will kept or dispensed on site.

Kita S. Curry, Ph.D.

President/CEO

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

4760 S. Sepulveda Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90230

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**From:** Kita Curry  
**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2016 2:26 PM  
**To:** '[duckworth.donald@gmail.com](mailto:duckworth.donald@gmail.com)'  
**Subject:** 8618 Sepulveda Blvd.

Hi Donald,

Thanks for being so responsive. The owner of the Medical Building at 8618 Sepulveda is Thomas Hood –8618 Sepulveda LLC. I spoke with Ezra Gale, Senior Planner for Mike Bonin. When I mentioned that I spoke with you and you were supportive, he asked if you could send him an email to that effect today?

[Would you be willing to send him whatever supportive phrase you are comfortable with at–  
\[ezra.gale@lacity.gov\]\(mailto:ezra.gale@lacity.gov\) ?](#)

Ezra referred me to David Solaiman Tehrani, ASLA, who is in charge of the Westchester CDO for LA City Planning Dept. David told me that the uses I described for ground floor would not meet definition of “Community Service.” But that if Councilmember Bonin gives a letter of support, they have “some leeway.”

When I told him that with such uncertainty, we couldn't buy a property that will cost approximately \$15 million, he said that if Councilmember supported, "Most likely we'll follow suit." So, now I'm going to call Ezra about an appointment with Mike Bonin.

We would be great owners/community members. We're approaching our 75<sup>th</sup> year in business, have 11 sites, a \$45M budget, 500 employees and 200 volunteers. We own 6 of our 11 centers and maintain their aesthetics inside and out. Unlike some purchasers who will do minimal improvements and merely use the building for leased office income, we will be an owner/occupier for the long run, which is why we would gut the building and bring everything up to code, including seismic upgrades totaling about \$1.3M.

This location will be the home of our Suicide Prevention Center, our flagship program. There is none as comprehensive in the nation. Its core services are prevention, training, counselling and research.

- Through our crisis phone/chat/text lines, last year we helped over 72,000 children and adults who were in crisis or worried about someone else.
  - o Together with a center in Miami, we comprise the nation's Disaster Distress Helpline (natural and man-made)
  - o Through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, we offer 24/7 Spanish/English coverage
- In partnership with LA City's Crisis Response Team, we provide immediate support at the scene of suicides. We also offer crisis support at schools, businesses, etc. where a colleague or student has been lost to suicide.
- We offer sliding scale support groups to individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide or have survived a suicide attempt. (Our nationally recognized curriculum for attempt survivors has been requested by 49 states and 18 other nations.)
- In trainings tailored to specific needs, we educate almost 10,000 students, religious leaders, business teams, first-responders, etc. to recognize and respond to the warning signs of suicide.
- We also promote awareness and prevention through dozens of local/national/international media interviews annually.
- As an aside, our 5K for Suicide Prevention, which is held at La Tijera and Westchester Parkway, now draws over 2,000 children and adults. I've attached a photo of the Kiddie K and one of the largest teams – Team Aaron—honoring the memory of a young teen.

Thanks again. I hope this works.

Kita

Kita S. Curry, Ph.D.

President/CEO

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